



DIVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Health Services
Disease Prevention
Family Health
Health Promotion
State Epidemiologist

MEMORANDUM 2008-04

TO: All Vaccine Providers

FROM: Tim Heath
Immunization Program Coordinator

DATE: 02/29/2008

RE: Dorm Style Refrigerators

Dear Vaccine Provider:

Beginning in 2008 Dormitory style refrigerators will not be acceptable for permanent storage of vaccines. This is a new federal requirement of the Vaccines for Children Program. Dormitory style units are small square refrigerators with a tiny freezer compartment inside the refrigerator.

Dormitory-style refrigerators should only be used to store a clinic's single-day supply of **refrigerated** vaccines and these vaccines should be returned to the main refrigerator storage unit at the end of each clinic day. Dormitory-style refrigerators are not adequate for long-term or permanent storage of biological products because they do not maintain appropriate temperatures.

Storage of VFC vaccine in refrigerators that are designed for use in small household spaces such as dorm rooms are never acceptable for permanent storage of VFC vaccines. Permanent storage is defined as the vaccine supply is maintained in the unit 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

"Dorm Style" refrigerators are acceptable for short-term storage of select VFC vaccines under **very limited conditions** which are listed below:

1. The purpose of using these units is for temporary storage when it is not reasonable for the staff administering the vaccine to go to the main storage unit to obtain vaccine for each and every patient.
2. The unit is never used for storing Varicella-containing vaccines

3. Only small amounts of inactivated vaccines can be maintained in these units. The amount of inactivated vaccines stored in the unit must never exceed the amount used in the clinic in one day.
4. The vaccine is returned to the main storage unit at the end of each clinic business day and vaccine is never stored in these units overnight or during periods of time when the practice is not open for business.
5. Each unit has a dedicated certified thermometer in place.
6. **Temperatures are monitored and documented twice a day on temperature log specifically for that unit.** Appropriate action is immediately taken when the temperatures are outside the appropriate range.
7. These units must be included and examined during the VFC compliance visit and corrective actions taken and documented by the grantee if any of the above conditions are not met.

Small units designed to hold medical biologicals are acceptable if they are stand alone refrigerator or freezer units, or if the unit has separate exterior doors for the refrigerator and freezer compartments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 605-773-5323, or by email at Tim.Heath@State.SD.US.

Sincerely,

Tim Heath